

a telephone interface means for connecting to at least one telephone, wherein the telephone interface means is adapted to patch a call from the one telephone to the circuit switched telephone network via the network interface means upon a determination that no data connection is established to the circuit switched telephone network;

a computer interface means for connecting to at least one computer; and

a routing means [communicatively connected to said network, telephone and computer interface means for managing the addressing of data between said network and said telephone and said computer;

wherein said routing means assigns] for assigning internal network addresses to said telephone and said computer[, respectively], and selectively [routes] routing voice and data signals from said telephone and said computer[, respectively,] to and from said [telecommunications network] circuit switched telephone network via said subscriber line [and] based on said assigned internal network addresses.

2. (Currently Amended) Apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a gateway means for packetizing voice signals received from said telephone interface and depacketizing voice signals from said routing means, packetized signals being routed by said routing means for transmission to [said telecommunications network] the circuit switched telephone network and depacketized voice signals being routed to said telephone interface for establishing a telephone conversation between a caller using said telephone and an other caller connected to [said telecommunications network] the circuit switched telephone network via another telephone.

3. (Currently Amended) Apparatus of claim 1, wherein said routing means includes an address conversion and translation means for translating the respective internal network addresses of said telephone and computer to correspond with an external network address of said subscriber line assigned to communicate with [said telecommunications network] the circuit switched telephone network.

5. (Currently Amended) Apparatus of claim 4, wherein said packet prioritization module further prioritizes voice signals over data signals so that voice signals take precedent over data signals when both voice and data signals are being communicated between said apparatus and [said telecommunications network] the circuit switched telephone network using said subscriber line.

6. (Currently Amended) Apparatus of claim 1, wherein said routing means apportions the bandwidth of said subscriber line for selectively routing the voice signals and data signals between said telephone and computer, respectively, and [said telecommunications network] the circuit switched telephone network.

9. (Currently Amended) A communications controller to be used at a site to connect to a [telecommunications network] circuit switched telephone network, said site including at least one telephone and one computer both adaptable to be accessible to [said telecommunications network] the circuit switched telephone network, said communications controller comprising:

a network interface means for effecting a connection with [said telecommunications network] the circuit switched telephone network via a subscriber line;

a telephone interface means for establishing a connection with said telephone, wherein the telephone interface means is adapted to passively patch a call from said telephone to the circuit switched telephone network via the network interface means;

a computer interface means for establishing a connection with said computer; and

a routing means communicatively connected to [said network] the circuit switched telephone network, telephone and computer interface means for assigning internal network addresses to said telephone and said computer[, respectively], and for selectively routing voice signals and data signals [between] among said telephone and computer[, respectively,] and [said telecommunications network] the circuit switched telephone network, so that both voice and data signals are communicated between said site and [said telecommunications network] the circuit switched telephone network using said subscriber line [and] based on said internal network addresses.

10. (Currently Amended) Communications controller of claim 9, wherein said routing means includes an address conversion and translation means for assigning said internal network addresses for said telephone and computer, and correlating said internal network addresses with an external network address of said subscriber line assigned by [said telecommunications network] the circuit switched telephone network; and

wherein said routing means selectively routes the voice and data signals between said telephone and computer, respectively, and [said telecommunications network] the circuit switched telephone network by establishing respective connections between said external network address of said subscriber line and said internal network addresses of said telephone and said computer so that both voice and data signals can be exchanged between said telephone and

said computer connected to said communications controller and devices communicatively connected to [said telecommunications network] the circuit switched telephone network.

13. (Currently Amended) Communications controller of claim 9, further comprising:

a gateway means for packetizing voice signals received from said telephone interface means and depacketizing voice signals received from said routing means, packetized voice signals being routed by said routing means for transmission to [said telecommunications network] the circuit switched telephone network and depacketized voice signals being routed to said telephone interface means for establishing a telephone connection between a caller using said telephone and an other caller connected to [said telecommunications network] the circuit switched telephone network via another telephone.

14. (Currently Amended) Communications controller of claim 9, wherein said routing means includes an address conversion and translation means for translating the respective internal network addresses of said telephone and computer to correspond with an external network address of said subscriber line assigned to communicate with [said telecommunications network] the circuit switched telephone network.

15. (Currently Amended) Communications controller of claim 9, wherein said routing means apportions the bandwidth of said subscriber line for selectively routing the voice signals and data signals between said telephone and computer, respectively, and [said telecommunications network] the circuit switched telephone network.

16. (Currently Amended) Communications controller of claim 13, further comprising:

a packet prioritization module for setting respective priorities for voice and data signals, said packet prioritization module prioritizing voice signals over data signals so that voice signals take precedent over data signals when both voice and data signals are being communicated between said site and [said telecommunications network] the circuit switched telephone network using said subscriber line.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of utilizing a subscriber line at a site to provide voice and data communication with a [telecommunications network] circuit switched telephone network, comprising the steps of:

connecting said subscriber line to a network interface [to said subscriber line] for effecting a connection with [said telecommunications network] the circuit switched telephone network;

connecting a telephone to a telephone interface for establishing a connection with said telephone;

determining whether a data connection is established with the circuit switched telephone network;

patching a call initiated from the telephone to the circuit switched telephone network via the network interface means based upon the determining step;

connecting a computer to a computer interface for establishing a connection with said computer; and

communicatively connecting a [router] routing means to [said network] the circuit switched telephone network, telephone and computer interfaces for assigning internal network addresses to said telephone and said computer[, respectively], and for selectively routing voice signals and data signals [between] among said telephone and computer[, respectively,] and [said

telecommunications network] the circuit switched telephone network, so that both voice and data signals are communicated between said site and [said telecommunications network] the circuit switched telephone network using said subscriber line and based on said assigned internal network addresses.

18. (Currently Amended) Method of claim 17, wherein said [router] routing means apportions the bandwidth of said subscriber line for selectively routing the voice signals and data signals [between said telephone and computer, respectively, and said telecommunications network].

19. (Currently Amended) Method of claim 17, wherein said communicatively connecting step further comprises the step of:

prioritizing voice signals over data signals so that voice signals take precedent over data signals when both voice and data signals are being communicated between said site and [said telecommunications network] the circuit switched telephone network using said subscriber line.

20. (Currently Amended) Method of claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

correlating said internal network addresses with an external network address of said subscriber line assigned by [said telecommunications network] the circuit switched telephone network; and

establishing respective connections between said external network address of said subscriber line and said internal network addresses of said telephone and computer for selectively routing the voice and data signals between said telephone and computer, respectively, and [said telecommunications network] the circuit switched telephone network to thereby

exchange both voice and data signals between said telephone and said computer and devices communicatively connected to [said telecommunications network] the circuit switched telephone network.

21. (Currently Amended) Method of claim 17, further comprising the step of:

communicatively connecting a voice circuit to said telephone and said [router] routing means for receiving and converting digital voice signals routed from said [router] routing means into analog voice signals for said telephone, and converting and forwarding analog voice signals output from said telephone into digital voice signals for said [router] routing means.

23. (Currently Amended) Method of claim 17, further comprising the step of:

packetizing voice signals received from said telephone interface and depacketizing voice signals from said [router] routing means, packetized signals being routed by said [router] routing means for transmission to said [telecommunications network] circuit switched telephone network and depacketized voice signals being routed to said telephone interface for establishing a telephone connection between a caller using said telephone and another caller connected to said [telecommunications network] circuit switched telephone network via another telephone.

25. (Currently Amended) A communications device configured to communicate with a [communications network] circuit switched telephone network over a subscriber line, comprising:

a plurality of interfaces respectively configured to communicate with a telephone, a computer, and the [communications network] circuit switched telephone network over the subscriber line; and

logic configured to assign respective internal network addresses for the telephone and the computer, translate between the respective internal network addresses and an external network address assigned to the subscriber line, and route voice and data signals among the telephone and the computer and the [communications network] circuit switched telephone network over the subscriber line [and] based on the assigned internal network addresses and the external network address assigned to the subscriber line, wherein the plurality of interfaces support patching a call from the telephone to the circuit switched telephone network upon a determination that no data connection is established to the circuit switched telephone network.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for communicating with a [communications network] circuit switched telephone network over a subscriber line using a communications device, the method comprising:

determining whether a data connection is established with the circuit switched telephone network;

patching a call initiated from a telephone to the circuit switched telephone network based upon the determining step;

assigning respective internal network addresses for [a] the telephone and a computer;

translating between the respective internal network addresses and an external network address assigned to the subscriber line; and

routing voice and data signals between the telephone and the computer and the [communications network] circuit switched telephone network over the subscriber line based on the assigned internal network addresses and the external network address assigned to the subscriber line.

27. (New) Apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the gateway means is configured to map a telephone number compatible with the circuit switched telephone network to one of the internal network addresses.

28. (New) Apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the gateway means is configured to map a telephone number compatible with the circuit switched telephone network to one of the internal network addresses.

29. (New) Method of Claim 17, further comprising:
mapping a telephone number compatible with the circuit switched telephone network to one of the internal network addresses.